

Myriophyllum robustum

COMMON NAME

stout water milfoil

SYNONYMS

Myriophyllum variaefolium var. *beta* Hook.f.

FAMILY

Haloragaceae

AUTHORITY

Myriophyllum robustum Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

MYRROB

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: EF, Sp

2004 | Gradual Decline

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to the North and South Islands. In the North Island known now only from Northland to Taranaki and the northern Rangitikei. In the South Island only known from North West Nelson, the West Coast and Fiordland

HABITAT

Shallow peaty lakes, slow flowing streams, dune ponds, and in muddy or seasonally flooded ground in alluvial forest.

FEATURES

Perennial aquatic herb which if in pools of water is firmly rooted to the bottom. Stems spongy, inflated up to 1.5 m long, emergent portion 300 mm tall, erect to prostrate. Submerged leaves in whorls of (4-)5-7, (15-)20-35 x (4-)6-10 mm finely divided, pectinate with 26-32 pinnae, brown, these diminishing in size toward water surface. Emergent leaves glaucous, tinged red, narrowly ovate to oblong, apex acute, otherwise similar to submerged leaves. Flowers perfect. Sepals 4, ovate to deltoid 0.6-0.8 x 0.5-0.6 mm, petals 4, weakly hooded, 2.5-4 x 1-1.5 mm. Fruits globular to slightly turbinate, 1.5-2 x 2-2.5 mm.



Myriophyllum robustum in fruit, Whangamarino Wetlands. Photographer: Bec Stanley



Detail of emergent foliage and flowers, ex. cult. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to the naturalised *M. aquaticum* (Vell.) Verdc. From which it differs by being monoecious (males and females on the same plant), the exposed stems usually pink coloured and by the leaf tips which are acute rather than blunted ended

FLOWERING

September - March

FRUITING

October - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy in a pond or in permanently damp soils. Can be grown from division of rooted pieces, by cuttings and seed. An attractive plant which should be more widely grown.

THREATS

Threatened by wetland drainage, eutrophication, and the spread of naturalised wetland weeds.

ETYMOLOGY

myriophyllum: Many leaves

robustum: Sturdy

CULTURAL USE/IMPORTANCE

Myriophyllum robustum is proving popular as an aquarium and pond plant.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 April 2007). Description based on fresh plants and herbarium material - see also Orchard (1979)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Orchard, A.E. 1979: *Myriophyllum* (Haloragaceae) in Australasia. 1. New Zealand: a revision of the genus and a synopsis of the family. *Brunonia* 2: 247-287.

CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Myriophyllum robustum* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myriophyllum-robustum/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myriophyllum-robustum/>